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LETTER DATED 9 OCTOBER 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to bring to your attention the dramatic situation of several thousand Serbs and a few hundred Roma at Orahovac in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia. The so-called Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) has blocked access to humanitarian convoys for a couple of months now, preventing delivery of food, while Albanian terrorists obstruct water and power supplies to the Serb-populated part of the town. Particularly difficult is the situation of over 1,000 Serbian and Roma children who, in addition to being exposed to daily harassment, have been prevented from attending school.

Instead of fulfilling their obligations and lifting the blockade which is contrary to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), as well as resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998) and 1203 (1998) and ensuring personal safety and property security, including the freedom of movement, the United Nations security and civil presences seek to organize evacuation convoys in order to resettle the Serbs and other non-Albanians from Orahovac. This undisguised fawning before Albanian terrorist separatists is grist to the mill of their systematic attempts to create an ethnically pure Kosovo and Metohija.

May I recall that KFOR has removed a number of roadblocks erected by the Serbs to protest various shortcomings, as they perceived them, in the fulfilment of the KFOR mandate (most pointedly the roadblock on the Pristina-Pec road), but that nothing has been done to remove the Albanian obstacles to the entry of the Russian troops in Orahovac for almost two months. This policy of double standards is detrimental to the goals and objectives set by the United Nations presences and must be discontinued immediately.

In bringing these facts to your attention, I expect that they will be taken account of during the consideration of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.